Subject: lead coins from Aziz Khayat (Antique Dealer)

Mayer, L.A.

[London, England]

1933

June 28, 1933.

L. A. Mayer, Esq.
Oxford University Press
London, E. C. 4, England.

Dear Sir:

I have just read your account of the lead coins of Barquq which appeared in the Quarterly of the Palestine Journal. We have five of those coins here which possibly are the four that you refer to in your footnote. These were bought in Palestine about 1929 by a New York dealer who sold them to us. I am enclosing photographs of these pieces as you might like to have them for your records. Can you attach any reason for the striking of these pieces? If you have read your date correctly, and I think you have, I can find no event that happened in Damascus that would warrant themmaking of lead pieces, although there was trouble enough at Damascus four or five years later.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

TELEPHONE TERMINUS 6081.
TELEGRAPH "WAYFARING, LONDON."

Pro tem:

WHITE·HALL
23 & 22·CORAM STREET
RUSSELL SQUARE·LONDON·W·C·1

29. VII. 1933.

Howland Wood Esq.,
New York.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter of June 28th which has been forwarded to me. I am almost sure that your coins are those I saw in Haifa in the hands of Mr Aziz Khayat who has a branch-office in New York. So far as I can see, the only reason for striking lead-coins could have been the desire of the moneymaster, or rather his chief, the majordomo of the Sultan, to find some substitute for silver, which was

becoming rare under Barquq.

I should be grateful if you would be good enough to let me know whether there are any important collections of Moslem coins in the United States. I am especially interested in Ayyubid and Mamluk coins.

Yours truly,

L. A. Mayer.

P.S. My regular address is P.O.B. 613, Jerusalem.

August 9, 1933.

L. A. Mayer, Esq.
White Hall
23 & 22 Coram Street
Russell Square
London, W. C. 1, England.

Dear Sir:

Your letter just at hand and our lead coins are undoubtedly the ones you saw as they came from Khayat. I think as you do that they are an emergency coin issue and probably some day some fact will come out that will be a reason for striking them.

There is no important collection of Moslem coins in this country outside of our own collection, which really is important. We have a fairly good collection of Ayyub and Mamluk coins. Unfortunately I cannot give you the details of these because they have interested me less than most of the other series and I have worked over these little. However I will be glad to help you out and give you what information I can when you are ready.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator